United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia calls on General Mohamed Farah Aidid to give himself up peacefully and urge his followers to surrender their arms; UNOSOM II begins raid against weapons stores of SNA/USC faction in Mogadishu.

+ Security Council imposes oil and arms embargo against Haiti as part of efforts to restore constitutional rule there; sanctions to take effect from 23 June unless results ensue from current negotiations.

+ Presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia discuss proposal to divide Bosnia and Herzegovina into three areas; Fred Eckhard to be replaced by John Mills of Australia as spokesman for Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference.

+ PLO Chairman tells Human Rights Conference that international community must end what is "tantamount to genocide" in occupied Palestinian territories; UNHCR warns that attacks on refugees threaten democratic societies.

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The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Admiral Jonathan Howe, has called on General Mohamed Farah Aidid to give himself up peacefully to the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) and to urge his followers to surrender their arms without further delay, according to a press release issued by UNOSOM II today. Admiral Howe had directed the UNOSOM II Commander to detain him as soon as possible for the investigation of the 5 June armed attack against UNOSOM II, and of the public inciting of such attacks. General Aidid would be treated "decently, fairly and with justice", General Howe said.

The ONUSOM II had begun coordinated ground and air operation to search, clear and disarm the United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) enclave in south Mogadishu. A separate operation had also been directed to arrest General Aidid as soon as possible as requested under resolution 837 (1993).

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A United Nations spokesman said yesterday that the action had been directed with the authority of the Secretary-General, and in accordance with the Security Council mandate. It was "vitally necessary" as part of the general programme of disarmament in Somalia, which had been agreed to by all parties to the Addis Ababa conference, and because of flagrant violations of the cease-fire, he said.

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The Security Council, acting under the enforcement provisions of the United Nations Charter, last night decided to impose an oil and arms embargo against Haiti in an effort to restore constitutional rule there. Under resolution 841 (1993) adopted unanimously, the Council decided that the sanctions would be applied on 23 June unless the Secretary-General reported that they were no longer needed in the light of negotiations currently underway. However, if the de facto authorities in Haiti failed afterwards to comply with their undertakings in those negotiations, the sanctions would be applied immediately.

Under the resolution, States would be obliged to prevent the sale or supply, by their nationals or from their territories, of oil or arms to Haiti. A committee would be established to monitor compliance with the resolution and to provide guidelines for its implementation. States were urged to cooperate with the Committee and to bring proceedings against anyone violating the sanctions.

Council President Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo (Spain) said in a statement on behalf of Council members that the resolution was warranted by the unique and exceptional situation in Haiti and should not be regarded as a precedent.

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At a meeting in Geneve yesterday, the Presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) discussed a proposal to divide Bosnia and Herzegovina into three areas. The proposal was neither the Vance-Owen peace plan nor a variation of it, a United Nations spokesman said today.

The Presidents of Croatia and the Federal Republic had left Geneva saying that they would develop the proposal in the coming week, while the Bosnian President said he would discuss it with his people over the weekend, according to the spokesman. The three Presidents were expected to return to Geneva next Wednesday to continue the talks, along with the leaders of the Bosnian Croats and the Bosnian Serbs.

In a related development, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia met briefly today with a representative of the Krajina Serbs. It was agreed that a delegation of Krajina Serbs would meet face-to-face with a senior delegation from the Croatian Government, probably

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next Tuesday, to discuss implementation of Security Council resolution 802 (1993), which called for an end to military action in the area. The two parties have not previously met face-to-face.

Meanwhile, a team of United Nations observers in Gorazde reported today that there was no shelling in the enclave for the first time in three weeks. It found that some 40 per cent of the houses in the eastern part of the town had been totally destroyed, while all others had been damaged.

The spokesman said Fred Eckhard, spokesman for the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, would be replaced by John Mills of Australia.

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The international community must act to end what is "tantamount to genocide" in the occupied Palestinian territories, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), told the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna yesterday. Despite global condemnation, the Israeli authorities continued to abrogate human rights in the territories and to flouting international covenants and treaties, he said.

Mr. Arafat appealed to the Conference to consider the suffering of the Palestinians, and the increasing confiscation of land and the establishment of settlements to impose demographic changes. The support given to Israel by the United States and other States encouraged it to violate human rights, he alleged.

In a statement to the Conference, Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said respect for human rights was crucial for the protection of refugees in countries of asylum. She warned that attacks on refugees and asylum seekers and incidents of xenophobia and racism threatened not just refugees but also the foundations of democratic societies.

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